



State Interagency Coordinating Council for Tennessee's Early Intervention System

July 23, 2013
9:00 am – 12:00 pm (CT)

Meeting Minutes

ICC Members in Attendance:

Ned Andrew Solomon-TN Council on Developmental Disabilities
Robyn Ridgley-Middle Tennessee State University
Jacqueline Johnson-Department of Health
Kiersten Kinder-Vanderbilt University, Susan Gray School
Joey Hassell-Department of Education

ICC Guests in Attendance:

Linda Hartbarger-Department of Education
Catherine Goodwin-Department of Education
Jill Rigsby-Department of Education
Sarah Hunt-Child Development Centers
Margaret Headrick- Tennessee Early Intervention System
Teresa Winnette-Child Development Centers
Lynette Porter-Council on Developmental Disabilities
Amy Jenkins-Siskin Children's Institute
Amanda Dunlap-MTSU Home and Community Early Intervention
Mitzi Myers- Tennessee Early Intervention System
Jennifer Curtis-Metro Action Commission, Head Start
Janice Phillips-Metro Action Commission, Early Head Start
Jill Rogers-LEAD
Pam Hudson-Signal Centers
Pam Isom-Newborn Screening
Anita Teague-Child Development Centers
Rebecca Robinson-TNAAP
Jessica Beaver-Therapy and Learning Center
Jacque Cundall-Newborn Hearing Screening, Department of Health
Heather Higgins-First Steps
Michelle Fox-Foundations
Ron Kwasigroh-Therapy and Learning Center
Rebecca Gassett-TNAAP
Gayle Coleman-Siskin Children's Institute
Anna Ramsbottom-Emory Valley Center
Lise Earwood- Tennessee Early Intervention System

MEETING:

Opening/Welcome

SICC Chair Robyn Ridgley opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. The SICC members, lead agency staff, and guests introduced themselves and identified their respective agencies and roles.

Approval of Agenda

There weren't enough SICC members present for a quorum to approve the Agenda.

Approval of Minutes of April Meeting

There weren't enough SICC members present for a quorum to approve the April minutes.

Agency and Program Reporting

Early Childhood IDEA Programs (ECIP) Staff Update-Linda Hartbarger

Linda shared that Sherree Sinclair, OEC Accountant for TEIS recently resigned to accept a position outside of state government. Plans are to fill that position as soon as possible.

Also Melanie Hatcher, IDEA 619 Preschool Coordinator, resigned her position effective June 24 to spend more time with her infant daughter. An announcement for a replacement will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

The Johnson City TEIS office is using outside sources in regard to service coordination. Filling of service coordination positions has been on hold awaiting the approval process on the salary grid. The other 8 TEIS offices are managing well.

Federal Update-Linda Hartbarger

Allocations have been received in the amount of 7,905,047, which are 350,000 less than in recent years due to sequestration cuts incurred earlier this year. This is based upon conditional approval by June 30, 2014. No changes in services are expected due to decreased allocations.

There will be a minor change to the parent's rights brochure coming in the fall.

Linda will be attending the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) conference in Washington, D.C. the week of July 29.

Tennessee's Federal Determination Letter-Catherine Goodwin

Catherine shared that Tennessee received its letter of determination from the federal Office of Special Education (OSEP) on July 1. The state falls into "Meets Requirements" for FFY 2013 based on FFY 2011-12 data. This is the fourth year TEIS has been in this category. Much of the work to enable TN to remain in "Meets Requirements" is the result of work efforts through the local TEIS offices.

OSEP used the same process as in the past for making state determinations which is largely based on compliance information. The report format was changed and now utilizes a rubric measurement and response table which looks very similar to the one we developed for our EIS Programs (TEIS-POEs) this year. It appears OSEP may be waiting to factor in results indicators as we move forward with the new SPP/APR document to include a State Strategic Improvement Plan (SSIP).

Early Childhood IDEA Programs (ECIP) staff is currently beginning work on the FFY 2013-14 APR which will be submitted to OSEP February 2014. This is to be the last SPP/APR submitted in the current report format.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)-Catherine Goodwin

Catherine discussed in April's meeting that proposed changes for the SPP/APR, including the new addition of a State Strategic Improvement Plan (SSIP) were posted on the Federal Register on April 16 for a 60-day comment period, ending June 14. To be proactive with the new information, ECIP staff held a stakeholder planning meeting on June 4th to:

1. Review information in proposed changes to SPP/APR document; components of proposed SSIP; and areas of TN's general system of supervision. Strengths and challenges of TN's general system of supervision were identified with ranking the top challenges. Someone asked about the top challenges identified. The top three were: data on results indicators do not get to quality, family outcomes and the use of data, and effective use of data as there is more we can do with it.
2. Plan for the SSIP considering what the priority area might be and identifying stakeholders to involve in the plan development.
3. Finalize questions for clarification and recommendations for OSEP regarding proposed changes

The meeting on June 4th was facilitated by Mid-South Regional Resource Center and a state contractor. State staff was involved as well as a Part B 619 Consultant and the DOE Deputy Commissioner. Stakeholders participating in the meeting included a TEIS District Administrator, Service Coordinator and Data Manager, SICC Chair and DD Council representative. State staff continued work on June 5th to compile results from general supervision ranking, compile input for OSEP which was submitted June 14th, and develop a draft calendar for SSIP work. The next step is to wait for additional information from OSEP.

Training Update-Jill Rigsby

Jill shared that there is a 3 year training plan being developed that will be introduced in August or September. There will also be a second EIRA conference in March 2014. Being introduced in October is the Professional Education and Enrichment Resource (PEER), there will be articles and podcasts available through an online learning management system. Anne Johns, Trainer with the TEIS Upper Cumberland office was the development lead person.

Public Awareness Update-Jill Rigsby/Claudia Weber

Claudia shared that bibs and emery boards have been printed with the Newborn Hearing Follow-Up toll-free number and her email address. Having these materials included in hospital take-home packets for new parents is being piloted through Lebonheur.

Jill stated that a department wide public awareness plan is possible with each division and agency having access with their own specific branding. This is still a year away in the request for proposal (RFP) process working through the contracts contact.

ICC Business

ICC Representative Update

Robyn shared that there are 2 higher education vacancies currently under consideration awaiting appointment by the Governor's office: Dr. Cathy L. Galyon Keramidas and Dr. Kimberly O'Kelley Wingate. Additionally there are 3 vacant positions for health care; they are Dr. Deanna Smith Bell, Dr. Donald E. Lighter and Dr. Felicia Merriweather Knowles.

Featured Speakers

EIRA Home Visiting Programs

Amanda provided several handouts giving an overview of program guiding principles and practices, providing early intervention services in natural environments, roles that speech, physical and occupational therapies play relating to children and families, and 7 key principles of what best practice “looks” and doesn’t “look like”.

They also provide assistance to families in recommending beneficial toys to their children, at times meeting up with parents at a store to aid in their toy shopping choices.

Peer visits involving speech language pathologists and physical therapists are one avenue that allows agencies to interact and integrate methods into their own practices.

Member Agency/Program Updates

Jill Rogers shared that future TRIAD trainings will be available starting in the fall. They are in the process of hiring 2 new Early Intervention specialists bringing the total to sixteen.

Sarah Hunt said that one of their sites have closed with 1 closing being eminent.

She shared that she had participated in Ted Talks with a streaming feed from London with Bill Gates that said a minimum of twenty hours per week working with Autistic children is needed to break through to the other side.

Brochures and public service announcements are part of their public service campaign.

Amy Jenkins shared news about their recent Give a Kid Chance Expo in which a minimum of 300 families attended. Outlet covers and bibs were distributed to promote awareness of their program.

She is also part of the NICU parent advisory board that works on best practices and recommendations with UT Chattanooga.

Deborah Usry stated that Memphis is updating training manuals and Vanderbilt is working with the training of residents with assistance from Dr. Martin Humbert.

Heather Higgins shared that the numbers for referrals have significantly dropped due in part to deployment of soldiers from the Ft. Campbell military base that the Greater Nashville and First Steps offices serve.

Public Input

None given

Topic requests for next meeting

Rebecca Gassett w/TNAAP with video showing families point of view being marketed to medical community.

Loraine Lucinski with the Department of Health discussing home visits.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Next ICC Meeting

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

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